

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LAGOS 06163 011852Z

45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

EB-11 COME-00 HEW-08 AID-20 RSR-01 /140 W

----- 111808

R 311425Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 459

INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

AMCONSUL IBADAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAGOS 6163

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SPOP, PINT, NI

SUBJECT: CENSUS: TRIBALISM REARS ITS HEAD

REF: LAGOS A-108

1. IN EDITORIAL ON JULY 20 NEW NIGERIAN FOR FIRST TIME PUBLICLY RAISED ISSUE OF TRIBALISM IN ADMINISTRATION NOVEMBER CENSUS. EDITORIAL CLAIMED THAT NATIONAL CENSUS BOARD HAD NOT GIVEN PROPER ETHNIC BALANCE TO ITS TECHNICAL STAFF, AND IMPLIED THAT FAILURE WAS DELIBERATE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST NORTH AND HAD RESULTED IN "WIDE SPREAD SUSPICION AND DISTRUST."

2. IN MORE MODERATE TONE, BENUE PLATEAU GOVERNOR GOMWALK ALSO VOICED FEAR OF POSSIBLE DISCRIMINATION AND CALLED FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF STATE REPRESENTATIVES AT THE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS TO "ELIMINATE POSSIBLE AREAS OF SUSPICION."

3. NATIONAL CENSUS BOARD CHAIRMAN ADEMOLA STRONGLY REJECTED CHARGE OF DISCRIMINATION. HE DECLARED THAT BOARD APPOINTED STAFF MEMBERS SOLELY ON MERIT. IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LAGOS 06163 011852Z

ANY CASE, HE POINTED OUT, ALL POLICY DECISIONS WERE

MADE BY ETHNICALLY BALANCED BOARD ITSELF.

4. OBSERVER AND TRIBUNE WERE ONLY TWO NEWSPAPERS TO DIRECTLY COMMENT ON NEW NIGERIAN EDITORIAL, AND BOTH WERE CRITICAL. ECS GOVERNMENT-OWNED RENAISSANCE IGNORED CHARGE, BUT RAISED TRIBAL ISSUE ON ITS OWN BY WARNING OF DANGER OF USING LOCAL ENUMERATORS WHO MIGHT NOT SEE "A LITTLE BIT OF INFLATION AS ANTI-SOCIAL ACTION, BUT AS A PARDONABLE TOUCH OF 'HOME' LOVE."

5. COMMENT: AS REPORTED IN REFAIRGRAM, WE VIEW TRIBALISM AS MAIN OBSTACLE TO SUCCESS OF CENSUS. ADEMOLA'S ARGUMENTS THAT TECHNICAL STAFF ARE PROFESSIONALS CHOSEN ONLY FOR MERIT AND THAT REAL DEMBJLUJDLWILL BE MADE BY ETHNICALLY BALANCED BOARD ARE PROBABLY VALID, BUT WILL NOT SERVE TO QUIET NORTHERN FEARS NOR SATISFY SUSPICIONS RE HONESTY OF CENSUS SHOULD RESULTS IN NOVEMBER APPEAR TO WEAKEN NORTHERN POSITION.

DECON 7/31/74  
REINHARDT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CENSUS, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, TRIBALISM  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 JUL 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973LAGOS06163  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** LAGOS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t1973072/aaaaabkb.tel  
**Line Count:** 82  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 LAGOS A-108  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <31-Jan-2002 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CENSUS: TRIBALISM REARS ITS HEAD  
**TAGS:** SPOP, PINT, NI  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005